(iv) Films on Reproductive & Child Health have been made by eminent producers to improve mass awareness on family welfare programme. Regular articles on RCH themes are being published in in-house publications- 'Hamara Ghar' in Hindi and' Reproductive & Child Health Newsletter' in English.

(v) The media units viz. Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity and Song & Drama Division and Directorate of Field Publicity are also carrying out publicity on Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) themes through exhibition, theatre plays, seminars/workshops and video programmes.

(vi) Parivar Kalyan and Swasthya Health Melas are also being organised in different states of the country to increase awareness and provide medical services to the people at their doorsteps.

A Core Group on Behavioural Change Strategies for the EAG States has been constituted in October 2001 with the objective of developing structures capacities and systems in these States to plan, develop and manage strategies for behaviour change for family welfare.

Health Facilities to Retired Employees of Central Government

†1374. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the retired employees of Central Government are not getting the health facilities in those places where the Central Government Health Scheme is not available; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take so that these retired employees can get the benefit of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, 5th Central Pay Commission made the following recommendations with regard to providing medical facilities to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners:—

(i) Grant of fixed medical allowance Rs. 100/-p.m. to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners residing in areas not covered under CGHS for meeting their expenditure on day-to- day medical expenses that do not require hospitalisation.

(ii) CS(MA) Rules, 1944 should be extended to pensioners, in a restricted manner so as to facilitate reimbursement of expenditure on hospitalisation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in a Government hospital/private hospital recognised under CGHS or under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose.

The 5th Central Pay Commission's recommendation at (i) above has since been implemented, granting Fixed Medical Allowance Rs. 100/-to the Central Government pensioners residing in areas not covered by CGHS w.e.f. 1.12.1997. A fixed medical allowance Rs. 100/-p.m. is granted to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners residing in areas not covered by the CGHS administered by the Ministry of Health & FW and corresponding Health Schemes administered by other Ministries/Departments for their retired employees for meeting expenditure on day-to day medical expenses that do not require hospitalisation.

So far as the recommendation at (ii) above is concerned, it was considered that although this Ministry agreed in principle to extend the CS(MA) Rules, to Central Govt. pensioners residing outside CGHS areas, yet due to limited resources; financial and administrative: it was found not feasible by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take over the responsibility of reimbursement of medical expenditure for indoor hospitalisation and treatment in respect of such pensioners.

Extension of CS(MA) Rules to pensioners would involve induction of 36 lakhs pensioners residing outside CGHS area, throughout the country. The extension of this facility is not possible for the pensioners for waving huge financial resources (approx. 1800 crores per annum) involved.

New Medical College in Safdarjung Hospital

1375. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet has recently approved a new Medical College in Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, whether candidates who have cleared DPMT test would be considered for admission for the academic year 2001;

(c) the number of seats available for unreserved and reserved candidates, category-wise; and

(d) the number of seats for BDS/MBBS, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed Indraprastha Medical College at Safdarjung Hospital has been approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.